

47th Annual Conference and Exhibition

8th-12th April 2013

Arena and Convention Centre, Liverpool, UK

The IATEFL International Annual Conference & Exhibition each spring is one of the main events in the English Language Teaching calendar. I joined the annual conference in Liverpool in order to mix with leading thinkers in ELT, share ideas with colleagues from around the world and make new friends.



The ACC is a unique venue, situated near the River Mersey on the old docklands and is within walking distance of a wide range of hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions.

IATEFL was working with the British Council to provide an Online Conference, where you could join the online delegates during and after conference. The aim was to make the conference accessible to many thousands more participants, both members and non-members, through Liverpool online. Even now you are enabled to watch live video sessions and recorded highlights of the conference on the Liverpool Online website and access a wide range of multimedia resources including video, audio and PowerPoint presentations of a selection of sessions. I hope that Liverpool Online may still give you the opportunity to feel closer to the face-to-face event. You can join in and follow the action as it happened at <http://iatefl.britishcouncil.org/2013>.

Attended by over 2,000 ELT professionals from more than 100 countries, it involved a 4-day programme of around 500 sessions consisting of talks, workshops, posters, forums, special interest group open forums and symposiums referring Business English, English for Specific Purposes, Global Issues, Leadership and Management, Learner Autonomy, Learning Technologies, Literature, Media and Cultural Studies, Pronunciation, Research, Teacher Development, Teacher Training and Education, Testing, Evaluation and Assessment, and Drama for Young Learners and Teenagers. This offered delegates a unique opportunity to meet leading theorists and writers, and exchange ideas with fellow professionals from all sectors of ELT.

The Associates' Day on 8th April was a great opportunity for representatives of all Teacher Associations that have entered into a mutually beneficial relationship with IATEFL to get together and discuss matters of common concern with language educators from all over the world and from a range of diverse backgrounds and nationalities. During the Associates Day I signed new partnership agreements securing future co-operation between our associations. I

successfully managed to sign a new agreement with INGED association, Turkey and ETAI association, Israel.

As it was my first IATEFL event I also took part in some of the early-morning How-to sessions which gave me handy hints on how to get the most of the conference. Then we could enjoy the opening announcement by Eric Barber IATEFL vice president, five plenary sessions e.g. by David Crystal, honorary professor of linguistics at the University of Bangor or the final plenary session by Roger McGough, awarded poet, four signature events and the extremely wide range of sessions.



In addition, a large resources exhibition involving around 70 ELT-related exhibitors was an excellent chance to see the latest ELT publications and services. The ELT resources exhibition was open to all for the length of the conference, showing published materials, teaching resources and equipment, computer software and services. We could visit their stands and find out more about their worldwide offer and see examples of the latest resources of British Council, Cambridge University Press, English UK, Express Publishing, Oxford University Press, Macmillan Education, Pilgrims and University of Liverpool, English Language Centre, and many others.

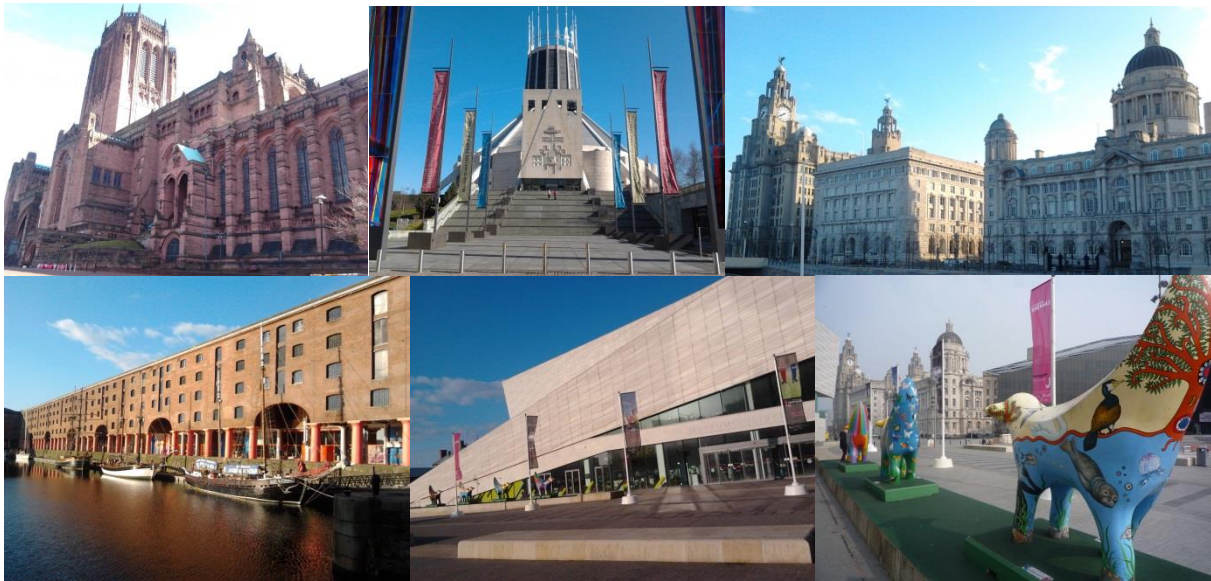
There was also an offer of daytime tours, walking tours, excursions, and evening social programme in the form of welcome reception, extensive reading foundation reception and awards ceremony or IATEFL failure fest where we took time out to relax, to keep ourselves entertained and to make new friends.



I consider it one of the best conferences I have ever been to for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere, where ELT professionals from so many countries were able to network, discuss and socialise.

It was a pleasure for me to participate at the IATEFL Annual Conference and to visit Liverpool that truly bared the title of European Capital of Culture in 2008. I will never fail to

remember the beauty and favourable impression of the Anglican Cathedral, the Metropolitan Cathedral, Pier Head buildings, the 'Three Graces' including the Liver Building, the Albert Dock, the Kings Dock and the Liverpool Museum.



My personal and professional evaluations from the conference were overwhelmingly positive. It was the people gathered at the conference who could inform, educate, and change minds, attitudes and practices. We all stood up, stepped forward and made ourselves counted.

